

# NASA-LaRC SAFETY NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION OF THE OFFICE OF SAFETY AND FACILITY ASSURANCE, SEMA

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## BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS

On December 6, 1991, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued its final regulation on occupational exposure to bloodborne diseases. This standard is known as the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1030. OSHA has determined that employees face a significant health risk as the result of occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens. These pathogens include HBV which causes Hepatitis B, a serious liver disease, and HIV, which causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS). OSHA further concludes that this hazard can be minimized or eliminated using a combination of engineering and work practice controls, personal protective clothing and equipment, training, medical surveillance, hepatitis B vaccination, signs and labels, and other provisions to eliminate or reduce exposure.

At LaRC the only personnel who are directly affected by this standard are the Clinic and the Fire Department. Both of these parties have initiated action to comply with all areas of the standard and have been audited as to their completeness. All other employees at LaRC are not directly affected. In the event that they do come in contact with blood or other potentially infectious material, they should contact the Clinic for further direction.

LaRC published notification to all NASA employees and all Contractors concerning this standard on November 12, 1992. This information is provided as an important reminder to employees.

If you would like a presentation on Bloodborne Pathogens for your organization, contact the Office of Occupational Health at extension 43189.

## PERSONNEL RELOCATIONS

As a result of the recent reorganization, many employees will be moving workplace locations. Employees who assist in their moves are reminded to follow proper lifting practices to avoid possible

injuries. If your organization would like a presentation on proper lifting techniques before starting your move, contact the Office of Occupational Health at extension 43189.

## CONFINED SPACES

### Standby Personnel

It's not enough to have a standby person monitor the activities of those entering confined spaces if that person is not properly prepared. Too many tragedies have occurred when the monitor attempts to make a rescue without protection. The standby person should be trained in the following:

- the importance of good ventilation procedure
- the warning signs and symptoms of exposure to the potential hazards
- all aspects of the hazards and the tests necessary to confirm that conditions are safe for entry
- awareness of possible behavioral changes in those workers entering the confined space
- how to summon rescue personnel
- keeping the entrance area unobstructed
- how to administer first aid and CPR (this is not an OSHA requirement)

A standby person should never enter a confined space to attempt a rescue, unless he has been relieved of his monitoring duties. Even then, he must be trained and equipped for a rescue.

## LaRC NOISE CONTROL AND HEARING CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Facility Coordinators and Safety Heads are reminded that Langley Handbook (LHB) 2710.1, (LaRC Noise Control and Hearing Conservation Program), requires that Office of Safety and Facility Assurance be notified when changes are made in facility operations that will change noise levels. Noise level readings will be made and documented as required by LHB 2710.1 and OSHA. The Office of Safety and Facility Assurance, SEMA, can be reached at extension 47233.